

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated June 21, 2004, are respectfully requested. The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the detailed comments in the Office Action, including specific recitation of portions within the applied references with respect to certain claims.

Claims 1-20, 23, 26 and 28 have been canceled. Claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 29-41 are currently pending.

Claims 21, 22, and 32 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. Claim 26 has been canceled and incorporated into claim 22. Claim 28 has been canceled and incorporated into claim 29. Support can be found for the amendments to claims 21, 22, and 32, for example, in Figure 5 and the supporting disclosure (paragraphs 28-32).

Claims 34-41 are newly presented. Support can be found, for example, in Figure 5 and the supporting disclosure (paragraphs 28-32).

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. The Applied Art

Claims 1-6, 9-16, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 24-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated U.S. Patent No. 6,215,790, to "Voit."

Voit (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,790) discloses an automatic called party locator over a public packet data network, for example, the Internet. In a preferred embodiment, "a variety of computers and servers connect to the network 31" and "terminal devices communicate with the computers and servers as well as with each other." The terminal devices described by Voit are "personal computer (PC) type terminal devices 21, 29, 35, 36, and 41." (Column 11, lines 15-26).

The terminal devices communicate via the public packet data network. For example, in an exemplary embodiment of Figure 3, at step 4 of the process "PC 21 uses the received IP address to initiate voice communications with the PC 35 through the public packet data network 31."

Therefore, all communication between the terminal devices shown in Voit is accomplished through a shared network, namely the public packet data network 31.

B. Analysis

Claims 21 and 22 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. The limitation "wherein at least two of the communication devices belong to different types of networks" has been amended to read as "wherein at least two of the plurality of communication devices are each associated with different respective networks in the multi-networked environment," and the limitation of "querying one or more of the networks in the multi-networked environment for status information" has been added from canceled dependent claim 26.

Voit does not teach the limitation of at least two of the communication devices belonging to different networks in a multi-networked environment. Communication between devices in Voit occurs only through *one shared network*, a public packet data network 31, as explained above. Therefore, Voit does not anticipate all the features of claims 21 and 22 and the dependent claims 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, and 31.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. The Applied Art

Claims 7, 8 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voit et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,790) in view of Voit et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,805,682).

Claims 7, 8 and 17 have been canceled and therefore the rejections are no longer applicable.

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voit et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,790) in view of Tang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,960,173).

Tang et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,960,173) is directed to a system and method of enabling awareness of others working in a computer work environment. Figure 6 shows the architecture of the system, where users at a number of computers 101 are connected on a shared network 123.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voit et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,790) in view of Klug et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,785).

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voit et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,790) in view of Gittins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,372).

Claim 20 has been canceled and therefore the rejections are no longer applicable.

B. Analysis

Claim 32 has been amended as follows: The limitation "wherein at least two of the communication devices belong to different types of networks" has been amended to read as "wherein at least two of the plurality of communication devices are each associated with different respective networks in the multi-networked environment," and the limitation of "querying the different types of networks for status information of the at least two of a plurality of communication devices" has been amended to read as "querying one or more of the networks in the multi-networked environment for status information."

Neither Voit nor Tang teaches the limitation of at least two of the communication devices belonging to different networks in a multi-networked environment. Communication between devices in Voit occurs only through *one shared network*, a public packet data network 31, as explained above. Similarly, Tang discloses a system where users at computers 101 are connected by a shared network 123. Therefore, the applied references in combination do not anticipate all the features of claim 32 and dependent claim 33.

III. Newly Presented Claims

Claims 34-41 are newly presented in this paper. They have been added to replace claims 1-20 and show features of the claimed invention. No new matter has been added, as support can be found, for example, in Figure 5 and the supporting disclosure (paragraphs 28-32).

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3599.

Respectfully submitted,

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12/1/04


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